

WASHINGTON.

Mr. Morton's St. Domingo Resolution Before the Senate.

General Schenck and the English Mission.

DEBATE OVER BUTLER'S AMNESTY BILL.

Enabling Acts for Colorado and New Mexico.

TEXT OF THE OCEAN TELEGRAPH BILL.

Government Asylums for Disabled Soldiers.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20, 1870.

Success for the President on the St. Domingo Question.

Senator Morton succeeded to-day in getting his St. Domingo resolution before the Senate, and a lively debate followed upon the question of referring it to the Committee on Foreign Relations. Mr. Morton, who is a member of this committee, did not seem willing to have it sent there, for the obvious reason that it would not likely be reported to the Senate this winter. The vote on taking up the resolution stood, yeas, 36; nays, 17. It is regarded as a test vote on the passage of the resolution, and Morton does not entertain any doubt now of its final success. Buckingham, of Connecticut, felt it his duty, in the absence of his colleague, Mr. Ferry, to oppose the resolution, and removed its reference to the Committee on Foreign Relations. With a view to obtaining a foreign hands, Mr. Sumner called for the yeas and nays on the motion to refer, but the Senate adjourned without taking a vote. Of course, the same vote that enabled Morton to take up the resolution will enable him to prevent it going to the Committee on Foreign Relations. This is the light just now, for his reference to that committee would be equal to its defeat. Senator Sumner leads the opposition to the resolution. He does not oppose its passage, but he wants to have it sent to his committee. He said very little himself to-day, but seemed to enjoy the manner in which Schurz, Patterson, Morrill of Vermont, Thurman and others criticised the action of the President in negotiating the St. Domingo treaty. To-morrow Mr. Sumner proposes to deliver an elaborate speech on the question, and those with whom he has talked say it will be very bitter. Conkling will reply to Sumner and Morton will close the debate. It is the understanding that a vote will be taken on the passage of the resolution before the Senate adjourns to-morrow. Should the resolution pass the Senate to-morrow an effort will be made to put it through on Thursday, so that the President can appoint the Commissioners during the holiday recess.

General Butler's Amnesty Bill.

Ben Butler's Amnesty bill occupied the attention of the House for the greater part of the day. Butler has the floor to-morrow, when he will demand the previous question on the passage of the bill and close the debate. The most telling speech against the bill to-day was that of Judge Bingham, of Ohio. Bingham secured and retained the undivided attention of the House while he spoke, the republicans coming over in a body to support the democratic side of the House, where Bingham came to hear him. Ben Butler was among the auditors, but he seemed to be engaged in conjuring up a reply rather than listening to Bingham's eloquence. The indications are that Butler will not be badly defeated. He gave notice to-day that if any of the amendments or substitutes now pending were adopted he would move to recommit the whole subject to the Reconstruction Committee. Of course this would defeat the measure for this session. At all events, there is very little prospect of any general amnesty bill being passed in this House.

Consideration of American Shipping Interests.

The House Committee on Commerce has under consideration to-day the subject of American shipping. Mr. Barney made some remarks to show that the cost of building ships was so much greater in the United States than in Scotland that nothing short of free ships would enable us to compete in the carrying trade with foreigners. Captain Codman, who is here in the interest of New York shipowners, delivered an address before the committee, in which he argued that our present navigation laws favor the interest of foreigners to the disadvantage of Americans. He said it was a mortifying fact that of the ships engaged in foreign commerce were sailing under the English than under the American flag. Many of these vessels were American property, though they were held in English names, manned by English seamen, controlled by English laws, and paid English taxes, and in case of war they would be subject to the order of the English government. In applying the principle of protection he drew a parallel, showing that within the United States where legislation could protect American skill and labor and production to the extent of absolute protection, it was not done, while on the ocean, over which as the highway of the world protection could not be extended, American legislation practically protected foreigners in the monopoly of the carrying trade by excluding our own people from advantages which were guaranteed to others. He argued against the system of subsidies, and in favor of perfect freedom in buying and building ships. He advocated the bill which Mr. Ingersoll introduced last week to encourage shipbuilding and ship repairs in the United States. The bill is similar to other pending propositions, and provides that whenever a ship is built, shall be allowed American registers and the privileges of the American flag, and shall have liberty to engage in any legal trade, except the coasting and inland trade, and that all materials used in the construction of vessels which are not used in the coasting and inland trade shall be admitted from abroad free of duty.

Provisions of the Ocean Telegraph Bill.

The following are the provisions of the bill relating to telegraph communication between the United States and foreign countries, as today agreed upon by the Committee of Foreign Affairs, and which Hon. Fernando Wood will report:

1. All communications established, or that may hereafter be established, between the United States and any foreign country by means of telegraph or magnetic lines, or cables, laid in any part thereof, in and over the waters, reefs, islands, rocks and lands, shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and shall be subject to the following conditions, stipulations and restrictions:

First.—The government of the United States shall be entitled to exercise and enjoy the same or similar privileges with regard to the control and use of any such line or cable that may, by law, agreement or otherwise, be exercised and enjoyed by any foreign government whatever.

Second.—The citizens of the United States shall enjoy the same privileges as to the payment of rates for the transmission of messages as are enjoyed by the citizens of the favored nations.

Third.—The transmission of dispatches shall be made in the following order:

1.—Department of State, under such regulations as may be agreed upon by the government in session.

2.—Despatches in the telegraph service.

4.—The time of any such cables shall be kept open to the public for the daily transmission of messages, and the time of any such cables shall be kept open to the public for the daily transmission of messages, and the time of any such cables shall be kept open to the public for the daily transmission of messages.

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